



Early Journal Content on JSTOR, Free to Anyone in the World

This article is one of nearly 500,000 scholarly works digitized and made freely available to everyone in the world by JSTOR.

Known as the Early Journal Content, this set of works include research articles, news, letters, and other writings published in more than 200 of the oldest leading academic journals. The works date from the mid-seventeenth to the early twentieth centuries.

We encourage people to read and share the Early Journal Content openly and to tell others that this resource exists. People may post this content online or redistribute in any way for non-commercial purposes.

Read more about Early Journal Content at <http://about.jstor.org/participate-jstor/individuals/early-journal-content>.

JSTOR is a digital library of academic journals, books, and primary source objects. JSTOR helps people discover, use, and build upon a wide range of content through a powerful research and teaching platform, and preserves this content for future generations. JSTOR is part of ITHAKA, a not-for-profit organization that also includes Ithaka S+R and Portico. For more information about JSTOR, please contact support@jstor.org.

plausible excuses of men who are resigning will serve as a basis either for the construction of labor policies in a factory or of the broader social policies.

There are some detailed questions regarding the definition and expression of labor turnover that may be raised. It is questionable whether labor turnover ought not be defined as replacements rather than separations if it is to be considered from the point of view of scientific management; it may be readily admitted that from the broader social point of view it ought to be defined as separations. It is questionable also whether absenteeism ought not to be taken into account in the expression of labor turnover, as Paul H. Douglas has suggested (*American Economic Review*, June, 1919, p. 402). It is questionable, also, whether there ought not to be an attempt made to determine the conditions in which labor turnover may be considered desirable, in contrast with the conditions in which it is undesirable.

E. H. SUTHERLAND

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS

The Joke About Housing. By CHARLES HARRIS WHITAKER.
Boston: Marshall Jones Co., 1920. Pp. vii+234. \$2.00.

Mr. Whitaker's book on *The Joke About Housing* is a serious work and it is to be regretted that the title is not in harmony with the earnest, far-reaching interpretation of the causes of the housing problem in America and its effects upon health, industry, and the whole mechanism of community development.

This book is symptomatic of a new tendency in America toward a constructive policy in housing reform. It indicates a realization of the social significance of housing as affecting the whole of the population of the United States, rather than an effort to bring about by restricting building regulations the improvement of the living conditions of a minority of the population who have become the victims of slum life. *The Joke About Housing* deals mainly with the relation of our land policies of ownership, land values, and land control, and the effect these policies had, not alone upon the freedom of land use in the development of adequate housing provisions, but in the tribute that land exacts from industry in the form of wages and from labor in depreciation of wage values.

The fundamental principles of land control advanced by the author are not new nor startling. The method of presentation, however, is not only novel and interesting but brings forth angles of vision of the land

problem in relation to housing that so far have not been touched upon in housing literature of America, although England has crystallized much of this theory into actual legislation. The style in which the book is written should make this book one of the most popular works on housing, as it is replete with touches of keen humor and sharp sarcasm that help bring into striking relief the main issues dealt with.

Like all books devoted to the presentation and emphasis of one fundamental idea the work suffers from lack of perspective in so far as its use as a work upon which a thoroughly constructive housing program could be built. While land is fundamental to all housing, the economics of housing cannot be limited within the sphere of land economics alone. The housing problem, however, will never be solved without a full recognition of the principles advanced by Mr. Whitaker.

The appendixes contain several interesting articles on housing which serve to back Mr. Whitaker's theories. The only one of real value, however, is the essay by Mr. Robert Anderson Pope, which presents a valuable analysis of housing and town planning in relation to the development of a new social order. This analysis is both original and scholarly.

CAROL ARONOVICI

SAN FRANCISCO

An Introduction to Social Ethics; The Social Conscience in a Democracy. By JOHN M. MECKLIN. Harcourt, Brace and Howe, 1920. Pp. ix+440. \$3.00.

The outstanding excellence of this book is that, from beginning to end, it keeps the reader in contact with actual processes of moral valuation. Ethical judgments in the making are the subject-matter considered from many angles. It is impossible either to prove or to disprove that this, that, or the other scheme of moral value was launched into this world out of some other world; and that it has authority "independent of experience," to use the Kantian phrase. Modern incredulity about such supposed origins of moral principles has resulted much less from formal argument about the subject than from perception, whether by the learned or the unlearned, that wherever we can actually trace out the antecedents of moral judgments they have been fabricated just as we have fabricated pottery or textiles or revenue bills. They have been the best attempts of the authors to adapt themselves to the conditions of adjustment in the given case. After we have found this out in a few